
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date: April 3, 2018

SOUTHEAST ALASKA PURSE SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET FISHERIES CHINOOK SALMON MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Alaska Board of Fisheries approved action plans for three Chinook salmon Stocks of Management Concern (Unuk, King Salmon, and Chilkat Rivers) at the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting. Additionally, the 2018 Chinook salmon forecasts indicate returns to other Southeast Alaska systems, particularly to the Stikine and Taku rivers, will be at an all-time low. Therefore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has imposed a 10% reduction to the Pacific Salmon Treaty all-gear Chinook salmon harvest limit for 2018 and as a result, some of the management actions for 2018 will be more restrictive than those described in the action plans. Management actions are being taken across all Southeast Alaska fisheries, including sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence, to reduce harvest of wild Chinook salmon. More information about the basis for 2018 Chinook salmon conservation measures in SEAK is publicly available ([link provided below](#)).

This news release provides a summary of intended management actions for the commercial net fisheries in 2018. For complete details of intended management actions, refer to the action plans ([links provided below](#)), the 2018 purse seine and drift gillnet management plans (forthcoming) and subsequent news releases.

Summary of intended management actions for commercial net fisheries in 2018:

Purse Seine fishery:

Other than within Terminal Harvest Areas (THAs) that have returns of hatchery produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28" in length for the 2018 season.

Drift Gillnet fishery:

District 6: The start of the District 6 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by one week until SW 25 (June 17). Time will be restricted to two days in SW 25. A maximum mesh restriction of six inches will be in place through SW 27.

District 8: The start of the District 8 drift gillnet fishery will be delayed by two weeks until SW 26 (June 24). Time and/or area restrictions will occur through SW 28 (July 14). A maximum mesh restriction of six inches will be in place through SW 28.

District 11: Time and area restrictions will be imposed in Taku Inlet through SW 29 (July 21) and will include two-day openings each week throughout the period. Waters on the east side of Taku Inlet south of Point Greely will open in SWs 25 and 26, waters south of Point Cooper will open in SW 27, and waters south of Jaw Point will open in SWs 28 and 29. A maximum mesh size restriction of six inches will be in place through SW 27 (July 7). Night closures from 10:00 p.m. through 4:00 a.m. will be in effect district-wide through SW 27.

District 15: The area open in Section 15-A is limited to south of Eldred Rock Lighthouse and east of a line from Eldred Rock Lighthouse to a point two nautical miles from the eastern shoreline at 58°51.00' N. latitude, 135°12.77' W. longitude through SW 29 (July 15). Night closures from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. will be in effect through SW 28 (July 8) with a six-inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 27 (July 1).

Section 15-C: is open for two days per week through SW 26 (June 24) with the open area limited to the Postage Stamp in SW 25 (June 17) and south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef in SW 26. Night closures from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. will be in effect through SW 28 (July 8) with a six-inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 26 (June 24).

Postage Stamp is defined as the waters of Section 15-C south of the latitude of Vanderbilt Reef light and east of a line from Vanderbilt Reef Light to Little Island Light.

Terminal Harvest Areas:

Neets Bay: Gear rotations for purse seine and gillnet will be closed for seven days during June. In addition, the THA will not expand to Chin Point until July 1.

Anita Bay: Start date will be delayed from May 1 to May 15. The outer portion of the THA will be closed until June 1.

Boat Harbor: The outside area of Boat Harbor will be open for two days per week with a six inch maximum mesh size restriction through SW 26 (June 24). Inside Boat Harbor (west of 135°09.57' W. longitude) will remain open seven days a week without gear or time restrictions beginning SW 25 (June 17).

The Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon action plans can be found at the links below:

- Chilkat River and King Salmon River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.05.pdf>
- Unuk River King Salmon Stock Status and Action Plan, 2018:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/FedAidPDFs/RIR.1J.2018.04.pdf>

2018 Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon All Gear Harvest Limit press release:

- http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pressreleases.pr&release=2018_04_03_2

The Basis for 2018 Chinook Salmon Conservation Measures in Southeast Alaska:

- http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/news/pressreleases/pdfs/basis_for_2018_chinook_conservation_se.pdf

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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